THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Criticism of Directorate of Film Festivals

426. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the criticism which appeared in a section of the press to the effect that the Directorate of Film Festivals lack professionalism, flexibility and autonomy and if so, whether Government propose to take any steps to remedy the situation;

(b) whether Government are considering to link Filmotsavas with the import policy on films as proposed by the Directorate of Film Festivals; and

(c) whether Government are also exploring the possibility of telecasting these Filmotsav films over he national network of Doordarshan to cover a wider audience?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has seen some such reports appearing in a section of the press. Government feel that the criticism is generalised and sweeping in nature and not justified. However, all press and other comments on festivals are scrutinized for ideas and suggestions for improving the organisation of future festivals.

(b) There is no specific proposal from the Dte. of Film Festivals on this subject. However, the recently announced Import Policy is likely to give a fillip to the import of festival films.

(c) Subject to their conforming to Doordarshan guidelines and availability of telecast rights, Doordarshan will consider festival films for telecast.

Low Recovery and High Price of Indian Marble

427. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of Indian marble is high because of the low recovery of about 30 per cent of usable chunks due to unscientific and primitive mining techniques used in Makrana marble mines; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and Government's steps proposed to be taken to increase the level of recovery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) and (b) Price of marble varies with quality and popularity and is not entirely dependent on the recovery rate. As per reports obtained from the field, about 60 per cent rock is recovered in the form of blocks, 25 per cent in the form of small irregular pieces from which tiles etc. are produced; the rest are utilised for manufacture of Makrana chips and marble powder. Since the Makrana mines are in small sizes of plots and have gone on deep as 30 meters, possibility of introduction modern machinery for extraction is remote. However, the State Government have introduced use of air compressors for drilling holes and breaking the rocks by hammering with wedges to form blocks.